

5.0 Consultation and Coordination

This chapter reviews agency and public consultation and coordination that occurred prior to and during preparation of this EIS. It also includes a list of the BLM resource staff who provided information and reviewed the EIS, the staff from AECOM, the contractor selected to prepare the EIS under the direction of the BLM, and the list of agencies and individuals who received the Draft EIS.

5.1 Public Involvement

The NOI to prepare an EIS for the Ochoa Mine Project was published in the FR on January 4, 2012. Consultation and coordination with various federal, state, and local agencies, organizations, and individuals has been accomplished through formal and informal means of communication, including meetings, interviews, email exchanges, telephone calls, and other verbal exchanges. The description of the public scoping process and the issues identified during public scoping is presented in Chapter 1.0, Section 1.5 of this EIS.

A project Bulletin was sent to approximately 300 interested parties including federal, state, and local agencies and governments to explain the proposed project and announce the start of public scoping. A project website was developed and was available for public access on January 3, 2012. BLM received a total of 21 comment submittals (e.g., letter, comment form, verbal comments) containing 125 individual comments during the 30-day public scoping period. In addition to the three public scoping meetings held on January 23 and 24, 2012, in Carlsbad, Jal, and Hobbs, New Mexico, some interviews of selected state and local government representatives were conducted to collect information particular to issues related to socioeconomics.

To announce the updated project schedule and publication of the Draft EIS, a second project Bulletin was sent to those who requested to remain on the mailing list, people who attended public scoping meetings, and key agency representatives.

5.2 Agency Coordination

The BLM invited 33 federal and state agencies, counties, and municipalities to become cooperating agencies in letters sent to each organization on January 20, 2012. To date, seven responses have been received, of which five informally accepted the invitation to be a cooperating agency and two agencies declined. Four organizations signed formal memoranda of understanding to establish cooperating agency status with the BLM Carlsbad Field Office for the Ochoa Mine Project EIS: USDOE Carlsbad Field Office, NMED, City of Eunice, and City of Jal.

5.3 Tribal Consultation

On November 16, 2011, the BLM sent project information and a request for identification of any tribal concerns or TCPs to seven tribes or pueblos: Mescalero Apache Tribe, Apache Tribe of Oklahoma, Comanche Indian Tribe, Pueblo of Isleta, Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma, Ysleta del Sur Pueblo, and Hopi Tribal Council. To date, no letter responses have been received.

Between July 16 and August 2, 2012, the BLM Carlsbad Field Manager, Associate Field Manager, and Lead Archaeologist met with representatives of each of tribe or pueblo to discuss the Ochoa Mine Project, as well as other BLM projects and initiatives. The concerns expressed by each tribe or pueblo involved following the NAGPRA and complying with the immediate notification of any human remains and associated funerary items inadvertently discovered. They did not identify any specific areas of concern within the Ochoa Mine project area; however, the Mescalero and Comanche Tribes indicated that they could not respond because they had not been to the specific area.

The BLM intends to continue consultation throughout the environmental review and construction phase of the Proposed Action, if approved. Renewed contacts with some or all of the tribes may result if there are unanticipated discoveries.

5.4 List of Preparers and Reviewers

The people listed in the following table, **Table 5-1**, provided oversight, information, and review of the EIS. All staff are located at the BLM Field Office in Carlsbad, New Mexico.

The people listed in **Table 5-2** prepared the EIS under the guidance of the BLM staff listed in **Table 5-1**.

Table 5-1 BLM Carlsbad Field Office Interdisciplinary Team

Resource/Responsibility	BLM Team Member	Education and Experience
Project Manager; Hydrology; Air Quality	David Herrell	Bachelor of Geological Science, Graduate Certificate in Environmental Water Science 5 years of experience
Assistant Project Manager	Shiva Achet	PhD Forest and Ecosystem Engineering (Hydrology) 25 years experience
Mining; Solid Minerals	Craig Cranston	BS Geology; MA Business and Economics 15 years experience in the potash Industry as a mine engineer; 19 years experience with BLM as a mining engineer.
Geology	Lindsey Curnutt	College degree: BS in Geology, certificate in Hydrology in progress 3 years experience
Cultural Resources	Bruce Boeke	College degree: BA Anthropology 33 years of experience
Biological Resources	John Chopp	BS Wildlife and Fisheries Management 2 years experience as USDA-FS biological technician; 3 years experience as BLM wildlife biologist
Soils; Livestock Grazing; Vegetation	Steve Daly	BS Wildlife Science 30 years experience with BLM range staff, 20 years as soil, water, air program lead

Table 5-1 BLM Carlsbad Field Office Interdisciplinary Team

Resource/Responsibility	BLM Team Member	Education and Experience
Recreation, Visual Resources	Deanna Younger	BS Parks and Recreation Management 1.5 years experience with BLM as outdoor recreation planner. 9 years experience with USDA-FS in cave and recreation management
Fluid Minerals	Wesley Ingram	BS Petroleum Engineering, MS Civil/Environmental Engineering 16 years experience
Lands and Realty	Tessa Cisneros	BLM Land and Realty School 6 years experience
Socioeconomics	Owen Lofton	10 years of experience with BLM realty staff, 2 years as RMP Team Lead and Planning and Environmental Coordinator

Table 5-2 AECOM EIS Team

Resource/Responsibility	AECOM Team Member	Education and Experience
Project Management	Ellen Dietrich	BA Anthropology; Graduate Study Soil Science 35 years experience
Assistant Project Manager; Lands and Realty; Recreation; Visual Resources; Health and Safety, Hazardous Materials	Steve Graber	BS Natural Resources Management; BA Economics 8 years experience
Geology and Minerals	William Berg	MS Geology 33 years experience
Groundwater	Robert Berry	PhD Geology/Geochemistry 28 years experience
Capitan Reef Groundwater Model Review	Casey Dick	BS Civil Engineering 11 years experience
Surface Water	Jim Burrell	MS Civil Engineering; BS Forest Management 33 years experience
Soils	Terra Mascareñas	BS Soil and Crop Science 15 years experience

Table 5-2 AECOM EIS Team

Resource/Responsibility	AECOM Team Member	Education and Experience
Air Quality, Climate Change	Linsey DeBell	MS, Earth Science (Geochemical Systems), University of New Hampshire BA, Creative Studies Biology 12 years experience
Vegetation, Rangelands/Livestock Grazing	Erin Bergquist	MS Ecology; BA Environmental Studies & Economics 10 years experience
Wildlife and Fish, Biological Assessment	Patricia Lorenz	BS Wildlife Biology 10 years experience
Cultural Resources	Edmund (Ned) Gaines	BA and MA, Anthropology 12 years experience
Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice	Ron Dutton, Sammons/Dutton LLC	MS and BS Economics 34 years experience
	George Blankenship, Blankenship Consulting	Master of Urban and Regional Planning; BA Social Work; BA Anthropology 33 years experience
Geographic Information Systems	Scott MacKinnon	BS Physical Geography 9 years experience
Word Processing / Document Formatting	Sue Coughenour	Two Years General Studies 27 years experience